

24 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Librarian *ABT*

SUBJECT: Certain Aspects of Publications Procurement in
Western Europe

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1. In view of the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 25 November in [redacted] office, this memorandum is intended to point up certain aspects of the procurement of foreign publications from PO's in Western Europe which may be appropriate to the subject of the meeting.

2. The bulk of serial and monographic literature currently procured by PO's in France, England, West Germany, the Benelux countries, the Iberian peninsula, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia consists primarily of publications directly available through commercial means, i.e., at bookstores, kiosks, publishers' outlets, official government printing offices, etc. In contrast to the situation usually prevalent in the Sovbloc where official diplomatic representation does facilitate, if not predicate the acquisition of certain categories of publications, in the Western European area there is very little which is not more accessible through direct commercial negotiation.

3. A large percentage of the orders for publications administered by full-and part-time PO's in this area calls for the bookseller and/or publisher to mail the item (s) directly to the Embassy or mission involved, where such material is packaged, addressed and sent via diplomatic pouch to Washington. Nearly every PO has stated, during consultation periods in Washington, that a facility should exist whereby the publications held or obtained by a book dealer or publisher could be sent directly to the requestor in Washington, or to a central receiving point in Washington for distribution. In either case, the workload currently facing PO's and their staffs, not to mention Embassy mailrooms, would be alleviated if the commercial channel were instructed to mail directly as instructed.

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such service would raise the cost of providing materials required -- however, service would be quicker and the many hidden costs in the present procedures eliminated.

4. More and more missions abroad are encountering difficulties in paying for the air pouching of publications required by various agencies in Washington (see attached OM from Belgrade, dated October 7, 1958).

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5. The inability of the Department to pay for the logistical support, and in many cases the local, ancillary support necessary for this program is becoming more and more apparent. Among the many services provided under the ICD/FP indicator are a number, e.g., press summaries, gratis serial publications, etc., which are pouching by air but which are for various components of the Department, both INR and the Regional Bureaus.

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6. The above are merely to be considered as appropriate leads to more extensive discussions or study of commercial advantages in the PO program.

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Chief, Acquisitions Branch

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